

Proceedings of the Fifty-first Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of North Carolina.

FRIDAY, MAY 17.  
The Convention assembled at 4 o'clock, and was called to order by the Bishop. The proceedings were opened with prayer.

After calling the roll the Secretary read the proceedings of the previous day, which were, on motion, received.

Rev. A. A. Watson, Rev. J. D. Chesire, D. D., Rev. Mr. Bronson, Dr. A. J. DeRosier, and R. H. Smith were appointed a committee to prepare an address to the next General Convention, agreeably to the resolution of the previous day.

The Bishop here addressed a few remarks to the Convention in reference to the necessity of amending the Constitution.

John Wilkes then offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Chesire, Judge Battle and Judge Person be appointed to report at once such changes as may be made in the Constitution, and to report on the same at the next General Convention.

Rev. Mr. Hilliard called up the report of the committee on Diocesan Missions, which was the order of the hour. The report and accompanying resolutions are as follows:

The committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of Diocesan Missions, beg leave to report as follows:

The Church of Christ must be aggressive, and when, in any case in any part of our State, she cannot be so, she must be faithful to her duty, but her spiritual life languishes and finally dies.

It is evident that the American Church is feeling deeply the importance of this truth, and is displaying a zeal and activity in the work of Diocesan Missions, which has never before been being kindled with a glow of interest and enthusiasm.

The missionary operations of the Church in this Diocese are not of this aggressive character, nor can this fact be accounted for by the defective condition of the people of our State, for the complaint has been made for years, indeed, almost every year since it was created, by the missionary committee, that its work was defective.

There must be, therefore, among us an utter readiness to spiritual things, which your committee do not believe to exist, or there must be some serious defect in our system of operation. Your committee believe that they have found this defect in the fact that they have neglected the important principles of division of labor.

The Church in North Carolina has been strong in her blessed ministry and unity, but she has not been able to bring this strength fully to bear, because her unity has been too much one of dead sameness, her work has been too much one of dead sameness, and her harmonious working of various parts, each full of a life of its own, different from the life of any other part.

Your committee believe that this defect can only be fully supplied by the division of the Diocese; but they also believe that it may be remedied in part by recognizing different sections of the State, as for missionary purposes, district organizations, which under one Episcopal head, and having largely independent action, may be organized now in existence in those Conventions, which have already, in some parts of the State, been organized of so many years.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the full performance of the Church's work, as a Missionary Church, in the State of North Carolina, a division of the Diocese is absolutely essential.

Resolved, That inasmuch as this division cannot now take place, because of certain constitutional restrictions imposed by the General Convention, the Diocese be divided for missionary purposes, into six Conventions, the limits of three of them to be the same with those of the following Conventions now existing, viz: The Albemarle, the South, Eastern and the Ravenscroft, and the others to be formed with such boundaries as may be formed by the Diocesan Convention.

Resolved, That the Diocesan Convention be organized as follows: The Albemarle, the South, Eastern and the Ravenscroft, and the others to be formed with such boundaries as may be formed by the Diocesan Convention.

A vote was taken on the first resolution, resulting in its defeat.

A motion to lay the whole subject on the table was lost.

Col. Fremont moved that a committee consisting of the Bishop and five delegates be appointed to report on the whole subject in hand, and to present it to this Convention for consideration.

Rev. Mr. Hilliard moved that the Bishop and this committee be requested to consider also, and report at the next Convention, whether there cannot be some regular system of itinerant missions instituted. Passed.

Rev. Dr. Chesire, Chairman of the committee on amendments to the Constitution, on behalf of the committee made report.

On motion this question was made the special order of the hour on the opening of the night session.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 8 o'clock P. M.

THIRD DAY.  
NIGHT SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 17.  
The Convention met at 8 o'clock P. M., and was called to order by the Bishop.

Rev. Dr. Chesire called up the report of the committee on amendments to the Constitution.

On motion, the report was recommitted to the same committee, to report again Saturday morning, 10 o'clock.

Rev. Dr. Holmes, from the committee on Canons, reported the following resolutions, which, after considerable amendment, were finally passed.

As amended, the resolutions are as follows:

The committee on Canons recommend that Section 3, Article IX, of the Constitution read as follows:

"In all parishes, no one shall be entitled to vote but those who are members of the Parish and communicants, or pew-holders, or regular contributors to the support of the Parish."

It was also recommended that Canon VI, to wit: "And also shall be the Registrar of the Parish." [This clause refers to the Secretary.]

Gen. Cox moved to take up the question relative to the election of an Assistant Bishop.

After considerable discussion, Mr. John Wilkes submitted the following, amendatory to the resolution relative to this subject, brought before the Convention at its session last evening:

Resolved, That the Bishop be requested to call a special Convention of the Diocese, and place as may be proper for the purpose of electing an Assistant Bishop.

General Cox proposed the following as a substitute for the above, which was finally adopted:

Resolved, That the further consideration of the election of an Assistant Bishop for this Diocese be postponed to the meeting of the next regular Diocesan Convention.

Mr. Hughes offered the following which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to inquire, and report to the next Convention, how many of the Parishes in this Diocese have failed to elect delegates for the next Convention, and whether or not it is expedient to suspend them from representation or connections with the Convention; and it shall be the duty of the committee to correspond with such Parishes on this subject.

On motion the Convention adjourned to 9 o'clock Saturday morning.

FOURTH DAY.  
MORNING SESSION.

SATURDAY, MAY 18.  
The Convention assembled pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the President, Rev. Dr. Mason, the Bishop being temporarily absent. The proceedings were opened with prayer.

The roll was then called, and the Secretary proceeded to read the journal of the preceding day, which, on motion, was received.

The special order of the hour, the report of the committee on amendments to the Constitution was taken up. The resolutions after undergoing considerable amendment, were finally adopted. As amended, the resolutions are as follows:

Resolved, That Article V. of the Constitution be so amended as to read as follows: "To constitute a quorum for the purpose of ordinary business, the presence of one-third of all the parishes, and delegates from ten of the Parishes entitled to representation in the Convention shall be necessary; any less number, however, shall be competent to receive reports and address."

Resolved, That Section 4 of Article IX be so amended as to read as follows: "Any Parish refusing to be represented in the Convention for two successive years, or any Parish resisting the authority of the Convention, may be suspended from the right of representation, or its connection with the Convention be dissolved, by a vote of a majority of all the parishes, and by a majority of delegates from twenty Parishes. But such suspension or dissolution shall never take place without previous inquiry by a committee appointed for the purpose, and a report upon the facts of the case, nor until after thirty days' notice to the Parish or Parish, or, in case there be none, then to some member of the Parish in default."

Resolved, That Article XII, Section 1st, be amended as to read as follows: "When a Bishop or Assistant Bishop is to be elected, the Convention shall always vote by distinct orders in the Diocese. The Clergy by a majority of all in the Diocese, and the Laity by a majority of all in the Diocese, and then a concurrent vote of both orders, by ballot, of a majority of the Delegates from at least five Parishes, and by a majority of the Convention (the said delegates voting by Parishes) shall be necessary to complete the election."

Resolved, That the report of the committee on the subject of the proposed alteration or amendment of the Constitution be received, and the report and accompanying resolutions are as follows:

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Resolved, That the report of the committee on the subject of the proposed alteration or amendment of the Constitution be received, and the report and accompanying resolutions are as follows:

The Journal of the day's proceedings was read, corrected and approved.

On motion, the Convention adjourned sine die.

The Bishop returned his thanks for the kind expressions and actions of the Convention to him personally, and wishing he had the strength, physical, intellectual and moral, to serve the Diocese better, declared the Convention adjourned until Friday.

CONGREGATION OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—The Bishop of this Diocese, attended by the clerical and lay delegates to the Episcopal Convention now in session here, visited St. John's Church on Friday and there performed the ceremony of Consecration.

A large congregation were in attendance to witness this really solemn and imposing ceremony, and to take part in the worship.

At half-past ten o'clock the Bishop was seen coming up the aisle at the main entrance, at the door of which he was met by the Wardens of the Parish. He was attended by the clerical delegates to the Convention, and the lay delegates followed immediately behind in procession. Passing up the main aisle the XXIV Psalm was said by the Bishop and Clergy respectively.

The Bishop then went within the rail of the chancel, and the clerical delegates were seated in the choir. After the presentation of the Instrument of Donation or Deed by Dr. A. J. DeRosier, the services were proceeded with.

The published order of service, which appeared in our yesterday's issue was adhered to.

The choir discoursed some most excellent and soul-stirring music, the solemn strains reverberating through the temple and causing the hearts of the congregation to swell with holy emotions.

The sermon was delivered by Rev. Mr. Bronson, of Charlotte, from Haggal II chapter and part of the 7th and 8th verses: "And I will fill this house with glory."

"The glory of the latter house shall be greater than the first."

The discourse of this Reverend gentleman was one remarkable alike for its beauty of diction, great power of argument, and the sublimity of thought which it evinced. To do it justice our limited space will not allow, as this could only be done by a full report.

After the service the Holy Communion was administered by the Bishop, assisted by several of the Clergy.

STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—In addition to the interesting letter published yesterday, we gather the following particulars of the meeting of the Medical Society from the Tarboro' Southerner:

The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year.

For President—Dr. S. S. Sateilwell, New Hanover.

For Vice Presidents—Dr. Hugh Kelly, Tarboro'; Dr. Charles C. O'Hagan, Pitt; Dr. Joseph H. Baker, Edgecombe; Dr. W. A. B. Norcom, Chowan.

For Secretary—Dr. Thomas F. Wood, Wilmington.

For Treasurer—Dr. J. W. Jones, Tarboro'.

For Orator—Dr. W. A. B. Norcom, Eden-ton.

One member of the profession from each county represented was appointed to report to the next annual meeting on the topography and diseases of their respective counties. Also a Special Committee of the Society, Dr. J. W. Jones, of Tarboro' in Chairman, were appointed to collect facts and statistics in relation to the epidemics, prevailing diseases of the different seasons, modes of treatment, &c., in various portions of the State and to report to the Society next year. The subject of the report was on the subject of Cholera.

Dr. Thomas F. Wood, of Wilmington, was appointed Chairman of a committee to ascertain facts in relation thereto and report hereafter.

Notable notice was taken of the death since the last meeting of the faithful Treasurer of the Society, Dr. C. W. Gray, who died, and of the death of one of the former Presidents, Dr. James E. Williamson, and appropriate resolutions adopted in relation to the life and character of each of these valuable and lamented members.

The Address of the former President, Dr. Thomas F. Wood, on leaving the Society, had some days ago ordered a certified copy to be made, which was accordingly furnished. I am permitted to send you a copy of this record, as certified by the Judge Advocate.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—So much has been said of the spoliation of the Booth diary, since the charge was made by General Butler in Congress, that now the people generally, and almost without an exception the leading journals demand that the book be published, no matter whether its contents be important or unimportant.

The subject of the spoliation of the Booth diary, and all the circumstances and of the general demand that the diary be printed, in order that the people may for themselves judge of the facts and merits of the controversy about this book, the President gave his consent that a copy be published. The President himself, never having seen the diary, had some days ago ordered a certified copy to be made, which was accordingly furnished. I am permitted to send you a copy of this record, as certified by the Judge Advocate.

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